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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

together with the

Report of the

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1962



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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# STANDISH - WITH - LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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*Chairman of the Council :*

Councillor Mrs. M. E. TURNER, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council :*

Councillor A. BENTHAM

*Members of the Council :*

Councillor J. DEMINGS

Councillor F. LUDBROOK

Councillor E. GARNER

Councillor G. MEADOW

Councillor T. HANLON

Councillor F. T. PAGETT, O.B.E., J.P.

Councillor R. HART

Councillor E. SHEFFIELD

Councillor J. HEALEN

Councillor K. SHEFFIELD

Councillor F. A. HODKINSON

Councillor J. WILKINSON

Councillor L. LEE

*The Public Health Committee consisting of all Members of the Council.  
is the Committee having charge of matters of public health within the  
Urban District.*

*Chairman of the Public Health Committee :*

Councillor E. GARNER.

*Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee :*

Councillor G. MEADOW.

*Clerk of the Council :*

D. CHISHOLM, Esq.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :*

B. L. PARKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

*Clerk :*

Mrs. D. E. SHEARER.



*Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.*

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Public Health Department,

Ashfield House,

Telephone : Standish 2012.

Standish.

June, 1963.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council*

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report upon the health of Standish for the year 1962.

As in previous years it has been compiled in the manner indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the Urban District. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr. B. L. Parker and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Preliminary Census, 1961). .....	9,689
Registrar-General's estimated mid-year (1962) home population .....	9,810
Acreage of District .....	3,266
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1962 according to rate book. ....	3,386
Rateable Value (1-4-62). ....	£105,904
Product of Penny Rate (Actual 31-3-1962). ....	£426/16/0

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District is pleasantly situated North of the County Borough of Wigan and adjoining it.

The Rural District of Wigan lies to the East and West and the Rural District of Chorley to the North.

The maximum distance between the boundaries is about 5 miles and the height of the district above sea level varies from 88 — 375 feet.

The surface waters mainly gravitate to the adjacent Douglas Valley to be taken away by the river of that name.

The geological formation is of black loamy soil having generally a sandy sub-soil and in the Eastern parts there are considerable strata of hard rock. The district is rich in coal seams at varying depths.

Although the district is typically urban much of the property is residential in character.

The principal industries in the district are coal mining, engineering, agriculture, food canning and bottling, brewing beer and the manufacture of textiles. Employment in these industries has been well maintained during the year. Each year there is a definite increase in population and rateable value.

For the purposes of Local Government the district is divided into five wards, each with three representatives, making a total of fifteen Councillors.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

*Live Births—number registered*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .....	83	82	165
Illegitimate .....	2	4	6

The live birth-rates per 1,000 of estimated home population are :—

Crude Rate .....	17.5
Adjusted Rate .....	18.5 (18.0)
Comparability factor .....	1.06

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births is 3.63.

*Stillbirths — number registered*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .....	1	3	4
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil	Nil

The still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 22.9 (18.1)



**DEATHS.**

<i>Deaths (all causes)—number registered</i>			
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	60	46	106

The mortality rates per 1,000 of estimated home population are :—

Total (all causes) : Crude Rate	.....	.....	10.8
Adjusted Rate	.....	.....	12.2 (11.9)
Comparability factor			1.13
Respiratory Tuberculosis	.....	.....	0.31 (0.059)
Malignant Neoplasms (cancer)	.....	.....	1.63 (2.18)

**Maternal Mortality** (including abortion) : There were no deaths from puerperal causes during the year. The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and still births is nil.

**Infant Mortality** (deaths of infants under 1 year of age) :

				<i>Number registered</i>		
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	2	1	3
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 17.5 (21.4)						

**Neo-Natal Mortality** (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age :—

				<i>Number Registered</i>		
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
The neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 11.7 (15.1)						

**Early Neo-Natal Mortality** (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) :

				<i>Number Registered</i>		
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
The early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 11.7						

**Perinatal Mortality** (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) : The perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births is 34.3.

**CANCER** : Sixteen deaths occurred in 1962—9 males and 7 females compared with 29 deaths—16 males and 13 females in 1961.

Facilities for Radium treatment for Standish residents are available at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic.

*Figures in parenthesis are corresponding figures for England and Wales.*

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—respiratory .....	3	—
Malignant neoplasm (lung bronchus) .....	3	1
Malignant neoplasm (breast) .....	—	1
Malignant neoplasm (uterus) .....	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	6	3
Diabetes .....	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	9	11
Coronary disease—angina .....	13	1
Hypertension with heart disease .....	—	1
Other heart disease .....	9	9
Other circulatory disease .....	2	2
Influenza .....	1	1
Bronchitis .....	7	4
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	—	1
Gastritis—enteritis and diarrhoea .....	1	—
Congenital malformations .....	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	2	7
Suicide .....	2	—
<hr/>		
TOTAL (all causes)	60	46

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service established at Wigan Infirmary and Meadow Street, Preston, are used for bacteriological examinations. Chemical analyses are usually undertaken by the County Analyst at Preston.

These arrangements have proved quite adequate and satisfactory.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the Lancashire County Council (Health Division No. 8) as the Local Authority under the National Health Service Act. An Ambulance Station to cover the needs of Standish is established at Ashfield House. The service is quite satisfactory.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As will be seen from the accompanying table the number of cases of infectious disease notified was significantly low this year.

Perusal of the table will indicate the incidence of these diseases and the age groups affected.

**Food Poisoning.**—No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

**General.**—In accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Acts, a copy of each notification of an infectious disease, including food poisoning, has to be sent by the Department to the Local Health Authority within 12 hours, if possible, and in any case within 48 hours after its receipt.

Other Returns relating to the prevalence of and deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases have to be sent to the Registrar-General and the County Medical Officer of Health at weekly and quarterly intervals.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of persons resident in Standish who were immunised and vaccinated during the year.

<i>Type of prophylactic</i>				<i>Pre-School Children</i>	<i>School Children</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria-Whooping Cough and Tetanus) :						
	Primary	.....		115	1	Nil
	Re-inforcement			Nil	1	Nil
Combined Antigen (Diphtheria and Tetanus) :						
	Primary	.....	.....	4	Nil	Nil
	Re-inforcement	.....	.....	9	72	Nil
Diphtheria only :						
	Primary	.....	.....	Nil	17	Nil
	Re-inforcement	.....	.....	Nil	10	Nil
Poliomyelitis :						
	Primary	.....	.....	109	17	60
	Re-inforcement	.....	.....	161	201	439
Smallpox Vaccinations :						
	Primary	.....		123	75	389
	Re-vaccinations			7	43	386

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1962

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS — YEARS										65 and age un- over known	Total Deaths
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	45		
Measles (excl. rubella)	5	—	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis (Resp.)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Tuberculosis (Non-resp.)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
TOTALS .....	11	—	2	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	4	—	3



## TUBERCULOSIS

Arrangments for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis are vested in the County Council, Specialist Chest Physicians of the Regional Hospital Boards and the General Practitioners. The County Council, on direction of the Minister of Health, is responsible for both prevention and after care of this condition, but local sanitary authorities are still empowered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, to take all necessary action to prevent the spread of infection and the Medical Officer of Health still retains specific duties and responsibilities under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

Standish cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

Four new cases of tuberculosis—one respiratory and three non-respiratory—were notified during the year compared with four respiratory cases last year. There were three male deaths from respiratory tuberculosis during the year.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken under these Acts in respect of the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

The Statutory Water Undertaker is the Makerfield Water Board, which, on the 2nd October, 1961, assumed responsibility for providing the district with a sufficient and wholesome supply of water.

The Council has one representative on the Makerfield Water Board.

The water supplied to this district by the Board is obtained in bulk from the Liverpool (Anglezarke) and Manchester (Thirlmere) Corporations respectively and the water going into distribution is normally a mixture from these two sources.

The water for domestic and trade purposes is filtered and chlorinated at the Standish waterworks before distribution. A special industrial supply from Thirlmere is distributed without further treatment.

During the year the Board carried out extensions to water mains for new housing purposes and to improve the supply in certain parts of the district.

The Board has in progress a scheme to improve the poor water pressures in the Pepper Lane area by providing a supplementary supply from the Harrock Hill reservoir.

The water is a good soft upland surface water adequate in quantity and in every way well suited for drinking and all domestic purposes.

No action was necessary as regards plumbo-solvency.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses.

**Fluoridation.**—The County Health Committee and the Makerfield Water Board have been informed that the Council strongly advocate the addition of fluoride to the local water supplies.

**Water Sampling.**—The following samples were taken during the year and reports thereon are tabulated hereunder :—

**BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS:—**

	<i>Untreated Water</i>				<i>Fully Treated Water</i>			
	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Apl.</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>.....Jan.</i>	<i>Apl.</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Oct.</i>
Probable numbers of Coliform bacilli per 100 ml. ....	4	3	2	Nil	.....Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Probable numbers of Bact. Coli (Type 1) per 100 ml.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	.....Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Class .....	2	2	2	1	.....1	1	1	1
CLASS 1—Highly Satisfactory				CLASS 2—Satisfactory				
CLASS 3—Suspicious				CLASS 4—Unsatisfactory				

**CHEMICAL ANALYSES (Results—Parts/Million) FULLY TREATED WATER.**

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Apl.</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Oct.</i>
Total Solids in Solution .....	64	64	44	68
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 minutes .....	0.16	0.16	0.28	0.32
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours .....	0.32	0.32	0.44	0.64
Ammonia .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia .....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	0.23	0.27	0.12	0.22
Nitrogen as Nitrites .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Combined Chlorine .....	10	11	9	11
Free Chlorine .....	0.07	Nil	Nil	0.07
Total Hardness (as calcium carbonate)	32	30	22	29
Carbonate Hardness (as calc. carbonate)	12	10	10	10
Lead .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Copper .....	0.04	0.04	Nil	Nil
Zinc .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Iron .....	0.12	0.96	0.19	0.28
pH value .....	6.9	7.0	7.3	6.9

The water supply is consistently reported upon as a good soft upland surface water free from organic pollution and in every way quite fit for drinking and domestic purposes.



## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker, Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent, has kindly contributed the following report :—

### DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers' Shops .....	30	Watercourses .....	2
Slaughterhouses.....	196	Dustbin Provision .....	162
Bakehouses .....	4	Keeping of Animals and Poultry	2
Fish and Chip Shops .....	3	River Pollution .....	14
Ice-cream Vendors .....	13	Housing Act Inspections .....	182
Cafes and Canteens .....	4	Overcrowding .....	4
Public Houses .....	18	Housing Applications .....	3
Other Food Premises .....	234	Caravans & Moveable Dwellings	4
Hawkers .....	11	I.D. Inquiries.....	1
Dairies .....	1	Filthy or Verminous Premises...	11
Milk Distributors .....	23	Disinfestation of Premises .....	11
Factories (Non-mech.) .....	8	Interviews with Owners, etc. ...	65
Factories (Mech.) .....	27	Re-inspection of Notices .....	104
Sites of Building Operations and		Rodent Control .....	505
Works of Engineering Con-		Atmospheric Pollution .....	13
struction .....	6	Water Supplies .....	13
Offices and P.H.A. Workplaces	7	Scrap Metal and Marine Store	
Outworkers Premises .....	1	Dealers .....	5
Shops under Shops Act .....	269	Hairdressing Establishments ...	11
Investigation of Complaints ...	62	Welfare—Aged Persons and	
Inspections and Tests Drainage	329	Problem Families .....	3
Septic Tanks and Cesspools.....	18	Noise Abatement Act .....	2
Conservancy Closets .....	2	Agricultural Units.....	33
Supervision over Refuse Coll-		Various Causes .....	24
ection and Disposal .....	230		

**Total Number of Inspections : 2670**

## SUMMARY OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered and abated</i>
Defective refuse receptacles .....	162
Defective or obstructed drainage systems .....	110
Defective windows .....	24
Defective roofs .....	17
Damp—defective and perished wall plaster .....	17
Defective watercloset appliances .....	12
Defective eaves gutters or rainwater pipes .....	11
Defective brickwork (external walls) .....	10
Insect infestation .....	10
Defective cold water service pipes .....	9
Defective chimney stacks and flues .....	8
Defective watercloset structures .....	7
Defective doors and frames .....	7
Defective ceilings .....	7
Defective firegrates .....	7
Obstructed eaves gutters and rainwater pipes .....	6
Defective floors .....	6
Offensive odours and accumulations .....	6
Flooded cellars and sub-floor spaces .....	5
Defective or insanitary sink waste pipes .....	4
Defective or flooded approach paths .....	3
Defective or obstructed private sewage disposal plant .....	2
External decoration .....	2
Dangerous boundary walls .....	1
Defective stairs .....	1
Keeping of animals and poultry .....	1
Noise nuisances .....	1
<b>Defects or Nuisances : Number discovered and abated</b>	<b>456</b>

**Number of Notices Served : Informal 41. Statutory 2.**

**Legal Proceedings : Nil.**

It will be seen from the foregoing statistics that much time and energy was devoted to the improvement of conditions in the environmental health field—day-to-day matters so highly essential to the health and well-being of the community and covering a far wider field than is usually appreciated by the general public—an unspectacular service in which it is difficult to prove that the absence of epidemics of one sort or another was due to the effort made.

The year under review again saw an increase in the work of the Public Health Department due to the growth of the district and the impact of new legislation.

The World Health Organisation expert committee on environmental sanitation said in relation to environmental sanitation that “it was the control of all those factors in man’s physical environment which exercised or could exercise a deleterious effect on his physical, mental and social well-being.”

The committee also stated that public health and environmental sanitation have now as fundamental objectives not only the prevention or absence of disease, but the promotion of physical, mental and social well-being.

The work of the public health department is prevention rather than cure. The department seeks to ensure that at all times and in all places all that contributes to the health and comfort of the individual is assured.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Approximate number of the various types of sanitary accommodation provided in the district is as follows :—

Number of houses on water carriage system .....	3,359
Number of privy middens (mostly on farms) .....	8
Number of pail closets .....	19
Number of waste water closets .....	2
Number of moveable dustbins .....	3,386

During the year 1 pail closet was converted to a watercloset also 3 pail closets and 1 privy midden were otherwise abolished.

Not many of the remaining conservancy closets can be connected to the public sewerage system, but, as opportunities arise, every effort is made and ingenuity used, to find ways and means of conversion to the water carriage system with outfall to private sewage disposal plant.



## HOUSING.

### STATISTICS.

#### 1.—Number of new houses erected during the year :—

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the local authority .....	Nil	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities .....	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	53	Nil

#### 2.—INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	182
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .....	286
(c) No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit .....	163
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit .....	35

#### 3.—HOUSES DEMOLISHED :—

In Clearance Areas :	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957 .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas :			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957.....	6	Nil	Nil
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders...	Nil	Nil	Nil

4.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—	Displaced during year		
	Number	Persons	Families
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	2	5	3
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—			
	By Owner	By Local Authority	
(1) After informal action by local authority...	162	—	
(2) After formal notice under :			
(a) Public Health Acts .....	1	Nil	
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	Nil	
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 .....	Nil	—	
6.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE :— (Housing Act, 1957)			
	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwell- ings contained in column (1) (2)	
Position at end of year :			
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation :			
(a) Under Section 48 .....	Nil	Nil	
(b) Under Section 17(2) .....	Nil	Nil	
(c) Under Section 46 .....	Nil	Nil	
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 .....	Nil	—	
7.—PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—			
	Number of houses (1)	No. of occu- pants of houses in column (1) (2)	
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year .....	Nil	Nil	

8.—HOUSING ACT, 1949, and HOUSING (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—  
IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, Etc.:—

Action during year :—	No. of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected in schemes of :—	
	Private Bodies or individuals	Local Authority
(1) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	14	—
(2) Approved by local authority	14	—
(3) Submitted by local authority to Ministry .....	Nil	Nil
(4) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(5) Work completed .....	14	Nil
(6) Additional separate dwellings included in (5) above...	Nil	Nil
(7) Any other action taken under the Acts (give brief particulars) ..... Nil		

9.—HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959—Standard Grants :—

Action during year :—	No. of dwellings or other build- ings affected
(1) Applications submitted to local authority .....	9
(2) Applications approved by local authority .....	9
(3) Work completed .....	9
(4) Remarks ..... Nil	

10.—HOUSING ACT, 1957—PART IV—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	20
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	7



**HOUSING :** Housing is one of the most important factors affecting the health of any community. The duty of maintaining an inspection of the housing conditions in the district was continued during the year. Much time was devoted to this important sphere of environmental health work which resulted in the improvement of the housing conditions of many families.

Slum clearance proposals have so far involved 63 dwelling-houses which have been dealt with as summarized below :—

Number of houses demolished or closed .....	50
Number of houses remaining to be dealt with .....	13
Number of houses estimated not to have an expectation of life of 15 years .....	22

These proposals—designed to clear the worst of the unfit houses in the district — have received the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Good progress has been made with the actual demolition of condemned properties without resort to default action.

Housing conditions in the district are generally fairly good and no serious slum problem exists.

With reference to Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 42/62 dated the 2nd August, 1962, in order to assess the number of houses in need of improvement a survey of the district was made which revealed that of the 3,350 houses in the district an estimated 640 houses, or for practical purposes 20 per cent, are worth and capable of being improved.

These houses are sub-standard but are not in such a state of disrepair and not so badly arranged as to be included in slum clearance schemes. Most of these houses were built in the late 19th century—they are structurally sound but lack what are rightly considered to-day to be essential amenities—and still have a useful life probably in the region of 20 to 30 years. The residents of these dwellings are normally content to remain where they have lived for most of their lives and would welcome the improvement of their homes to give them the minimum amenities which are expected to-day.

There are two kinds of grant available for modernising older houses :—

- (1) The (1959) Standard Grant which house owners can claim as of right. During the time the Act has been in operation 24 houses have been improved to the five point standard.

- (2) The (1949) Discretionary Grant which covers more extensive improvements is paid at the discretion of the Council. 116 houses have so far been improved to the twelve point standard with the assistance of discretionary grants.

It is in both national and local interests that the maximum number of houses—capable of being raised to this higher standard of fitness—comfort and convenience—should be preserved—and some day not too far ahead it is hoped that it will be made compulsory for all houses to be furnished with these simple aids to healthy living. To halt obsolescence before it reaches the slum stage by providing some measure of financial assistance is a much better proposition than doing nothing until the only solution is demolition and a new house as a replacement.

At the end of the year there were 190 applicants for Council housing accommodation—approximately 112 requiring 2-bedroom—28 requiring 3-bedroom type houses—and 50 requiring aged persons bungalows. Whilst a degree of overcrowding exists it does not constitute a serious problem as the foregoing statistics will show. Investigation into the circumstances of a number of applicants was made and reports prepared for the guidance of the Committee in its endeavours to ensure that applicants with the greatest housing need are re-housed. The number of applicants having an acute housing need is now not so great as it was some few years ago.

Whilst Standish attracts considerable housing developments by private enterprise—there remains no small demand and preference for that substantial municipal house with the security of good management.

At the year end the erection of 22 two-bedroom houses and 10 one-bedroom aged persons bungalows was in progress at Standish Lower Ground and a scheme to build 76 dwellings on the Larkhill Estate was contemplated.

The district is seriously affected by active mining subsidence and evidence of damage resulting therefrom can be seen in surface property throughout the area.

All kinds of problems in connection with surface property arise as a result of mining subsidence which render normal day-to-day work more difficult. It is a continuing process which can never be fully assessed.

#### **Rent Act, 1957.**

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year. Two Certificates as to the remedying of defects specified in a landlord's undertaking to remedy defects were issued.

It would appear that very little use is now being made of the disrepair procedure provided by the above Act.

## DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year for the reasons stated :—

Cockroaches	.....	.....	.....	6 whole houses
Ants	.....	.....	.....	2 whole houses
Silver fish.....	.....	.....	.....	2 whole houses
Earwigs	.....	.....	.....	1 whole house

Where the furniture and effects of prospective tenants of Council houses are known to be verminous, disinfestation is carried out in order to prevent infestation of the new premises.

Spraying and dusting with various insecticidal liquids and powders proved to be highly effective.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

All notified cases of certain infectious diseases are visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given concerning isolation of the case and the care to be exercised by contacts.

Public library books from infected premises are disinfected by the health department before being returned to the library for re-issue. Books in an unserviceable condition are sometimes destroyed by arrangement with the librarian.

No premises were disinfected during the year.

A standing arrangement with Hindley Urban District Council exists for the transportation and treatment of infected articles requiring steam disinfection.

## RODENT CONTROL

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work.

The following abstract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicates the nature and extent of work carried out during the 12 months ended 31/12/1962.



	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	NON-AGRICULTURAL All Other (including business premises)	Total	TURAL AGRICUL-
Number of properties in District	8	3289	160	3457	40
Number of properties inspected as a result of :—					
(a) Notification .....	Nil	51	5	56	Nil
(b) Survey or otherwise .....	8	293	95	396	40
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections .....	19	344	100	463	42
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats					
Major .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor .....	8	49	3	60	2
(b) Mice					
Major .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor .....	Nil	6	2	8	Nil
Number of infested properties treated by the L.A. ....	8	55	5	68	2
Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments .....	11	55	5	71	2
Number of “Block” control schemes carried out.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The services of the Council's rodent operator—under the control and supervision of the Public Health Inspector—are available to undertake the destruction of rats and mice on land or premises within the Urban District.

No charge is made for the disinfestation of private dwelling-houses but business and agricultural premises are charged for treatments on a time and material basis as distinct from contract terms.

The sewers and sewage disposal works were systematically treated also the refuse disposal sites.

It is only by co-ordinated attention to underground and surface infestations that the rat population is kept to a minimum.

No legal proceedings were taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act during the year.

Regular attendances were made at the South West Lancashire Advisory Committee and the fullest co-operative working with contiguous local authorities and other bodies exists.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The year under review saw the fulfilment of a long felt need, in that, public conveniences for both sexes planned and equipped on modern lines were brought into use in a central and convenient position in the township.

It is more than regrettable that already these conveniences have been the target for acts of vandalism by what are obviously misguided individuals.

The provision of public conveniences at Standish Lower Ground is under consideration.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

Continuous pollution of rivers and streams takes place from both public and private sewage disposal plant. Attempts are made to reduce the pollution from private premises by the health department arranging for the cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks at the cost of the respective owners. The pollution from public sewage disposal works can only be mitigated by the provision of a new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme to which the Council continues to give serious consideration.

As from the 1st June, 1963, a date fixed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, it will be an offence to CONTINUE to discharge into any stream or river (including canal) any trade or sewage effluent, unless the consent of the Lancashire River Board has been obtained or is applied for before that date.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Standish has a water carriage system serving the majority of premises in the district. Areas at Boars Head—part of Wigan Lower Road and the northern portion of Preston Road are unsewered.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage disposal works—at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road—and two sewage farms—at Fairhurst House and Langtree. The Chorley Road works and the sewage farms are grossly overloaded and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of recent years. The Arbour Lane works has been so badly disrupted by mining subsidence as to render the effective treatment of sewage thereat impracticable. The sewerage system for Standish Lower Ground discharges into the trunk sewer of Wigan Corporation.

The prospect of heavy and continuous rainfall is—in certain parts of the Urban District—now regarded with fear because of the past unpleasant experiences following the surcharging of sewers and drains and the consequent fouling of yards and gardens with voluminous quantities of sewage.



The sewerage system in the James Square area has been so badly disrupted by mining subsidence as to destroy self-cleansing velocities and it is feared that the consequent build-up of solids in the sewers will eventually give rise to a serious public health problem.

The Bradley sewer is known to be defective and at certain times it is incapable of containing the increased volume of trade waste which it now receives. Continuous gross pollution of the Bradley Brook results.

The attention of the Council has been drawn to incidents and conditions such as are described and which constitute a very serious threat to the health of the local inhabitants.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems has approached finalisation on several occasions only to be held-up by unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the Council and its Consultant Engineers.

The district cannot afford such a situation to prevail much longer because in addition to the paramount public health reason the curtailment of the growth of the district in building alone will be significant.

## CARAVAN SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Site licences under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, to use plots of land as sites for single caravans have been granted in two instances.

The use of caravans and similar structures for permanent residence should be discouraged as such moveable structures do not constitute suitable substitutes for dwellings of traditional construction.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General observations of the eight factory and works chimneys were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from manufactory and domestic chimneys takes place.

Action had to be taken in respect of one factory where chimney emissions contravened The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, due to the use of unsuitable fuel and overloading the boilers. Co-operation with the plant manager quickly remedied the situation and resulted in the installation of coking stokers to replace hand firing.

In the case of another factory chimney where smoke emissions from time to time exceed the statutory limits—the existing boiler installation is to be abolished and replaced by a complete new steam raising plant which will be sited in the adjacent rural district.



It is appropriate that these matters should now be dealt with in view of the expiration on the 5th July, 1963, of the seven year temporary exemption from dark smoke offences under Section 1 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

Householders are advised to instal grates of approved type when replacing existing old and obsolete grates with new in an endeavour to reduce pollution of the atmosphere by smoke from domestic sources.

The Council have made the installation of approved heating and cooking appliances in new buildings obligatory by making bye-laws under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which became operative on the 1st October, 1957.

Whilst it appears that the Urban District is not included in the provisional list of black areas prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the establishment of Smoke Control Areas will have to be systematically undertaken.

The Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES

No offensive trades are carried on in the district.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the district.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in the district.

### SHOPS AND OFFICES

There are 136 shops of various kinds within the Urban District. Assistants are employed in 30 shops and young persons in 5 of this number.

Under the Shops Act, 1950, the Urban District Council is the sanitary authority as regards certain provisions of Section 38 dealing with sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature of shops.

Concerning working hours, weekly half-day holidays, intervals for meals and rest of young persons employed in shops and other provisions relating to the health and comfort of shop workers, the County Council is the enforcing authority, but, the Public Health Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the County Council as regards these matters, and details of each shop inspection are forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health and any contraventions reported are dealt with directly by the County Council.

During the year 269 shop inspections were made and any contraventions discovered were remedied informally.

Conditions in offices are inspected periodically.

## HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

- There are thirteen hairdressing establishments—three for males and ten for females — within the Urban District. Communications concerning the hygiene of premises and hairdressing equipment have been sent to all hairdressers.

## FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

### Part I of the Factories Act, 1961

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	3	8	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	27	27	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	20	6	1	Nil
TOTAL ...	50	41	4	Nil

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspect (4)	by H.M. Inspect. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) .....	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient .....	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	6	6	Nil	Nil	Nil

The provision of sanitary conveniences on sites of building operations in accordance with Section 127 of the Act is an important matter often neglected and demands constant vigilance to avoid insanitary conditions arising.

There is one outworker engaged in basket making recorded under Part VIII of the Act.

A number of workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 of the P.H.A. 1936, are regularly inspected.

#### **Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.—**

This Act imposes upon local authorities the duty of ensuring that all agricultural units within its area where workers are employed in agriculture are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences which must be properly maintained and kept clean.

There are 33 agricultural units in this Urban District which are generally small in character and on which no exceptional seasonal work takes place. Inspections of these agricultural units have revealed that all have available the water or conservancy type of sanitary convenience at the farmstead sufficient to meet the needs of regular and seasonal workers.

#### **RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

There are no premises registered or licensed under the above Act within the Urban District.

#### **NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960**

The Noise Abatement Act recognised for the first time in history that noise can be a danger to health.

Subject to certain exceptions, noise or vibration which is a nuisance can now be dealt with as a statutory nuisance.

Complaints concerning excessive use loudspeakers by ice-cream vendors were dealt with during the year.

#### **LICENSED PREMISES**

There are 13 public houses within the Urban District.

Systematic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at these premises and should the need arise reports are prepared and submitted to the General Annual Licensing Meeting of the Justices. By this means considerable structural improvements to sanitary accommodation have been effected at several of the licensed premises.



A Hygiene Code of Practice for public houses which, inter alia, directs particular attention to the cleansing and sterilising of glasses, abolition of lead and other unsuitable beer piping and pumps, cleansing of beer piping and pumps, disposal of drippings and overspill beer and the abolition of spittoons has been formulated and addressed to owners and licensess of all public houses and secretaries and stewards of all clubs within the Urban District by whom it has been well received.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

All food premises and the vehicles of food hawkers and itinerant vendors of ice-cream in the district have been inspected and assessed in comparison with the various provisions of the Model Byelaws for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air and The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

During the year 513 inspections were made for this purpose, and, except for the service of five informal notices, all contraventions discovered were dealt with verbally on the spot.

Efforts to improve standards of hygiene in food premises have been going on for a long time and experience has shown that the effort must be sustained. Pamphlets and posters dealing with the various aspects of clean food production were again distributed to food traders during the year.

Food premises generally have now been brought up to a reasonable standard, but it is quite probable that some food handlers do not employ the same strict observance of the personal hygiene provisions of the regulations in the absence of the inspector, as they do in his presence.

There is a natural tendency for traders to place business interests before food hygiene. The task of the inspector is to persuade traders that the two are synonymous.

This task can only be accomplished with the full co-operation of the customer who should realise the importance of shopping and eating where food is dealt with hygienically.

Customers have two big advantages over the inspector. The first is that they are on the spot the entire time the shop is open—the second is that they possess a powerful weapon—the ability to withdraw custom if dissatisfied with the service.

Regular ante-mortem and one hundred per cent post-mortem inspection of all animals slaughtered at the one licensed private slaughterhouse within the district was carried out as detailed in the following table. All inspections were carried out in accordance with the provision of Memo. 3/meat.

DETAIL	Cattle excluding Cows			Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	Horses		
Number killed .....	403	...	49	...	4	...	1532	...	1108	...	Nil
Number inspected .....	403	...	49	...	4	...	1532	...	1108	...	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :—</i>											
Whole carcases condemned .....	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	75	...	32	...	1	...	57	...	88	...	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci .....	18.61		65.30		25.00		3.72		7.94	...	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>											
Whole carcases condemned .....	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	20	...	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	1.80	...	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis :—</i>											
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	9	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Description of Food	Disease or other cause of condemnation	Weight condemned				
		tons	cwts.	qts.	lbs.	ozs.
Canned tomato pulp (various brands) ...	Decomposition	6	7	2	0	0
Canned apricot pulp (various brands) ...	Decomposition		15	2	24	0
Canned boiled ham .....	Decomposition			1	12	4
Canned meat (various) .....	Decomposition				16	12
		7	3	2	25	0

<i>Carcases/Organs or parts condemned</i>	<i>No. condemned</i>	<i>Disease or other cause of condemnation</i>	<i>Weight condemned cwts. qrs. lbs.</i>		
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## CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS :—

Heads less tongue .....	3	... Cysticercus bovis .....	2	12	
Hearts .....	7 (9)	... Cysticercus bovis .....		20	
Heads less tongue .....	1	... Actinobacillosis .....		26	
Lungs .....	1	... Septic pneumonia .....		10	
Lungs .....	2	... Pleurisy .....		20	
Diaphragm or skirts .....	2	... Peritonitis .....		4	
Hearts .....	2	... Pericarditis.....		6	
Spleens .....	1	... Peritonitis .....		2	
Flanks .....	2	... Peritonitis .....	1	2	
Stomach, intestines, mesentery, diaphragm and trimmings	1	... Abscess and peritonitis ...	2	0	
Stomach, intestines and mesentery .....	1	... Peritonitis .....	1	2	
Mesenteries.....	2	... Pentastomi .....		16	
Livers—whole .....	12	... Abscesses .....	1	1	26
Livers—whole .....	8	... Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	1	0	0
Livers—whole .....	3	... Necrosis .....	1	14	
Livers—whole .....	1	... Peritonitis .....		14	
Livers—part .....	43 (75)	... Cirrhosis .....	2	3	6

## COWS :—

Livers—whole .....	4	... Abscesses .....	2	0	
Livers—whole .....	6	... Angiomatosis .....	3	0	
Livers—whole .....	4	... Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	2	0	
Livers—part .....	17	... Cirrhosis .....	1	0	22
Hearts .....	1	... Pericarditis.....		4	
Mesenteries.....	1	... Pentastomi .....		8	
Udders .....	1 (32)	... Tumour .....		20	

## CALVES :—

Lungs with heart .....	1	... Congestion & Pericarditis		4	
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## SHEEP AND LAMBS :—

Livers .....	56	... Parasitic .....	1	0	0
Livers .....	1 (57)	... Abscesses .....			2

## PIGS :—

Heads .....	20 (20)	... Tuberculosis .....	2	0	14
Heads .....	6	... Abscesses .....	2	16	
Hindquarters .....	1	... Abscesses .....	1	12	
Plucks .....	16	... Congestion & Pericarditis	1	0	14
Lungs with heart .....	11	... Congestion & Pericarditis	1	16	
Hearts .....	10	... Pericarditis.....		6	
Livers—whole .....	39	... Parasitic .....	1	1	8
Livers—whole .....	6 (88)	... Cirrhosis .....		24	

Grand total weight :	8 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 11 lbs.	18	3	14
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A perusal of these post-mortem findings prompts two comments :

- (a) It will be noted that no tuberculous lesions were found in any of the cattle slaughtered—an experience which can only be attributed to the success of the now country-wide introduction of the Attested Herd Scheme.
- (b) *Cysticercus bovis* which gives rise to the tapeworm in the human remains a health hazard and calls for the greatest diligence on the part of the meat inspector in his efforts to interrupt the life-cycle of this parasite.

The canned tomato pulp is imported by a food canning firm operating in the district and damage during transit or deterioration during storage are the reasons for condemnation.

All condemned meat and other food is disposed of either to non-edible by-product manufacturers or by burying at the Local Authority's refuse disposal sites under the direction and supervision of the Public Health Inspector. All condemned meat is disposed of in accordance with The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960.

The following information is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular.

**Number of Food Premises (by type of business) in District at end of year :—**

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers.....	46
Greengrocers & fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish/game/etc.)	9
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry/game/etc.) .....	Nil
Meat shops (butchers/purveyors of cooked and preserved meat/ tripe/etc.) .....	11
Bakers and/or confectioners .....	3
Fried fish shops .....	4
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery/minerals/ice-cream etc.	4
Licensed premises/clubs/canteens/restaurants/cafes/snack bars and similar catering establishments .....	28
Others .....	10
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>115</b>

Number of above premises where more than one type of classified business is carried on .....

13

Actual number of food premises .....

102

**Number of Food Premises (by type) registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.**

Type of Business		No. registered at 31-12-62	Number of inspections of registered prem- ises during year
(a)	Hawkers food storage premises .....	1	
(b)	Sale of ice-cream .....	39	24
(c)	Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted or pressed or pickled or preserved meat .....	4	

The provisions of Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, were not adopted by the Council and registration of premises and persons continues to be effected under Sections 115 and 116 of the Act of 1938.

**Food Hawkers registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.**

A variable number of hawkers of meat or meat food products or fish or fruit or vegetables is registered with the Council under the provisions of the above Act.

Regular inspections of the vehicles and food offered or exposed for sale are made and the hawker's attention drawn to any irregularities found.

**Ice-Cream :—**

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the Urban District. All shop retailers of ice-cream and water-ice are equipped with a modern refrigerator and sell pre-packed products of reputable quality. The only loose ice-cream sold within the area is by itinerant vendors. Six samples of soft ice-cream taken during the year were graded satisfactorily.

**FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING**

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and the County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following details :—

A total of 38 samples was obtained by the County Sampling Officers in the Urban District made up of 22 samples of milk and 16 samples of other commodities.

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

**SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

Statutory Instruments Nos. 1019 and 1020 made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the 29th May, 1961, came into operation on the 1st July, 1961, from which date existing slaughterhouses in the district had to comply with hygiene and prevention of cruelty construction regulations.

There is one licensed private slaughterhouse within the Urban District where much of the meat consumed by Standish residents is produced and this has now been brought up to the standard required by the regulations. It is pleasing to record that the important work of meat production thereat has operated quite satisfactorily.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

*The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958*

The above Act prohibits the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen and requires all animals to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter. The above Regulations are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and knacker's yards.

A licence to slaughter animals is valid for a maximum period of one year and must specify the types of animal permitted to be slaughtered and the type of stunning instrument to be used.

Seven slaughtermen are licensed by the Council to slaughter animals.

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection of Pet Shops by Local Authorities. The principal purpose is to enforce reasonable treatment and accommodation of pet animals during their sale or keeping for sale.

There are no Pet Shops within the Urban District.

### MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

The following statistics give some idea of the milk supply of the district at 31st December.

Milk Producers in the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
including Producer-Retailers	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
including Producer-Wholesalers	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Milk Producers outside the district retailing in the district					2

All raw milk sold within the Urban District is from tuberculin tested cows.

**The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 :—**

Number of milk distributors registered by the local authority and operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
(c) Premises outside the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	6

The Urban District is included in Area 8 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, in which the use of special designations in relation to the retail sales of milk for human consumption is made compulsory.



Twenty-four inspections of milk distributors' premises and vehicles were carried out during the year and time spent on advisory work in connection with clean and safe milk distribution.

#### Milk Sampling :—

Considering the facts that all milk producing herds within the Urban District now hold Tuberculin Tested licences and that all milk disposed of wholesale is destined for pasteurisation—the sampling of raw milk is now confined to that from herds where the milk is sold by retail distribution within the Council's area.

During the year 14 samples of milk were taken for the biological test and all were found free from tuberculous infection.

Fourteen samples of milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue test for cleanliness and all were graded as satisfactory. Six samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests with satisfactory results.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Refuse Collection Service provides employment for 13 full-time men—this includes the foreman.

The present vehicle establishment consists of three “Dennis” 10 cubic yard side-loading refuse collection vehicles powered by diesel engines. The gradual but definite increase in the number of properties to be cleared is making a marked effect upon the work of public cleansing—it is becoming increasingly evident that in order to speed up the routine of refuse collection—the side-loader must eventually give place to the large capacity rear-loading compression vehicle and vehicle replacements must have regard to these considerations.

Except for the interruptions caused by public and general holidays a weekly collection of refuse—from the rear of all premises—was maintained throughout the year.

It is gratifying to record that the service operates efficiently and generally without complaint.

Considerable importance is attached to adequate and regular vehicle maintenance and the working of overtime is discouraged.

With few exceptions no charge was made for the removal of trade refuse. It is correct to point out that much of the trade refuse removed is salvaged and sold and the revenue so produced is greater than that which would accrue from trade refuse charges.

The sand pits at Langtree Hall Farm used for the purpose of refuse disposal have proved very satisfactory and no complaints have been received. It is anticipated that this site will provide disposal capacity for several years.



The refuse tips are regularly treated with bait and insecticide as a precaution against rodent and insect infestation.

The emptying of the few remaining pail closets was carried out weekly.

The Public Cleansing Depot in Grove Lane is gradually being developed—with the envisaged rebuilding of the dilapidated salvage shed and other improvements—an admirable and useful Public Cleansing and Salvage Depot would result.

The dustbin provision and ownership scheme has been in existence since 1951 and is operating satisfactorily. During the year 168 dustbins were provided out of the General Rate Fund.

Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse and kept separately for baling and subsequent despatch to Thames Board Mills Limited at Warrington under contract arrangements.

The salvage of waste paper has come to be regarded as a permanent and important part of the Public Cleansing Service. Consideration will have to be given to installing a more powerful baling press to cope with the increasing quantities of fibreboard.

The workmen are rewarded 20 per cent. of all income from the sale of salvaged materials as an incentive to increase collections.

The income from the sale of salvaged materials during the calendar year was :—

Grade	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper .....	59	13	0	464	9	9
Fibreboard.....	36	7	0	352	17	7½
Newspaper .....	34	7	0	284	7	6½
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Total weight .....	130	7	0	1101	14	11
Rags and scrap .....	3	13	2	21	13	0
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Grand total weight	134	0	2	£1123	7	11

In collaboration with the local branch of the R.S.P.C.A., facilities for the lethalisation of unwanted, sick and injured cats and kittens are established at the Grove Lane Public Cleansing Depot.

The cleansing of non-County roads is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Surveyor.

**Anti-litter Campaign.**—The Council has provided a number of litter bins which have been fixed at suitable points in the district. Consideration is being given to acquiring more receptacles but it is a disheartening thought that, because of wanton damage, some will not for long serve the purpose for which they were provided. These are emptied at weekly intervals by the Public Cleansing Department.







